

[CONTINUED FROM 1ST PAGE.]

we can manage it; and even that will spoil the play."

"Is it quite necessary that 'Fortesque' should be whiskered?" I asked, faintly. "Why, judge for yourself; how a powdered wig looks with them? The worst of it is," she added, "that when I undertook the part of 'Maria' it was with the supposition that you would be the 'Fortesque'."

Those who are acquainted with the Belle of Penzance, must be told that "Fortesque" is the lover of "Maria," and several half romping, half-armorous scenes are enacted between them; knowing this, if they had heard how Ada hesitated, and seen how she blushed as she spoke, they would not wonder that my breath came short, and a singing arose in my ears. My left hand closed upon the fingers which were forming that bridge; my right arm stole around her form; I felt intoxicated by the magnetic halo which floated about her hair.

"Take care," she said; "I cannot make my stroke if you come so close."

I knew there was such a thing as throwing away a race by making the running too early.

"Hit your own b-b-b-ball in the exact centre, and rather high," I stammered, "and you—you would not like O'Brian—that is, any other fellow to take that part, in fact."

"I declare, I won't answer you!" she cried. "Of course, I know you, an never saw the most of the others before, and such things make all the difference, you know. To be kissed, even in make believe, by a man one has seen for the first time a week before, makes one feel nervous; but there!" Ecstasy! she clasped O'Brian with the men "she had only known for a week!" And then she had not noticed him at all those splendid parties.

And she had noticed and remembered me.

"Oh, that it was not make-believe! Let us rehearse our parts."

"Where is the use she murmured, "if you will not make a small sacrifice?—And she looked so deliciously shy and conscious, that I cried in rapture; "I'll do it!"

"What! part with these?" and she laid a finger more beautiful than Aurora's on one of my whiskers.

"Yes."

"You must give me one as a memento. Get up; there is some one certainly coming."

It was Miss Winton and Captain Seymour, who came just in time to prevent a formal offer. I went off to my bedroom, locked the door, opened my dressing case, took out scissors and razor, and began the dreadful task.

Infatuated, mad that I was, I inserted the expanded points of the fatal shears, gave a convulsive clip, and in half a minute the carefully tended growth of years fell to the dressing table. I cannot bear to recall how I looked at that moment. As quickly as possible, I cut off the companion whisker, and then shaved my cheek clean.

On my way down stairs, I met sister Thomas, who stopped, stared, and asked my name. He did not recognize me. Young Winton, who was always late, was breakfasting when I entered the morning-room. He dropped a cup of hot coffee over his knees, and nearly choked.

Leaving him in his misery, I encountered a young lady visitor, who crammed her pocket handkerchief into her mouth and fled.

But it would be tedious to recount the effect I produced upon each individual member of the household. All, even the faithless Ada, laughed at my appearance, except O'Brian, who looked upon my transformation from a purely dramatic point of view. Others were divided as to whether I most resembled a plucked fowl or a recently shorn sheep, but the veritable amateur said: "Surely he will make an elegant 'Fortesque,'" and stuck to that view of the question.

The company soon got used to the alteration, and the dramatic business now went as smoothly as a hand passed over my cheeks. I had the intoxicating privilege, the tantalizing element in which was tempered by hope, of making second hand love to Ada in daily rehearsals, till at last the day of positive performance arrived.

We all knew our parts, but whether we noted them well or not, it is difficult to judge; our audience was bound in common politeness to be pleased, and the flattering applause and profuse congratulations we received cannot be counted or much. At any rate, everybody seemed delighted, and the whole affair was counted a success.

When a *fete* which has cost some time, thought, and labor in the preparation, is over, a heavy weariness and depression is apt to weigh upon the principle actors, and this, I believe, with the majority of the company assembled at Winton Hall.

But I felt nothing of this. What were private theatricals or balls, past or future, to me? Means to an end, one end—Ada. How could my mind be cloudy as she smiled upon me? How feel depressed when such hopes elevated me?

On the morning following the performance, I awoke early with a firm determination to turn comic-courthouse into earnest, and force a plain yes or no from her that very day. To lie in bed with such a prickle in the pillow was quite impossible, so I got up, dressed, and went for a walk. On passing through the garden on my way back to breakfast I became aware that somebody else was also in high spirits, for a well-known voice behind the shrubbery was singing *The Pigs in the Morning*; and on turning the corner of a path, which brought me into a little open dell sacred to rhododendrons, I came upon O'Brian, with his hat stuck on the back of his head, executing a *pas seul* to a vocal accompaniment.

"Ah!" he cried on seeing me, "sure you have caught me making a fool of myself. But it is a good thing my mother's only son has done for me this morning. Congratulate me, my boy!"

"Certainly," said I, feeling a little sickly, "What on?"

"I am going to be married to the prettiest little angel that ever wore boots and has a nice little sum all at her own disposition into the bargain. Woop!"

It was too true; he had stolen a march upon me. I left Winton two hours afterwards.

Thank you; yes, my whiskers are gradually recovering, and I expect to be able to walk out in daylight by another month or so. At present they are in the blacking-brush stage.

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I have secured Letters Patent for the United States, England and France.

The improvement is not in material, but in the construction, which secures the atmospheric pressure on the entire plate.

I have sold the exclusive of said improvement to Dr. L. Gilman, of the Counties of Franklin, Washington, Chittenden, Lamoille and Grand Isle. Those wishing to avail themselves of such improvement, will call on

**Dr. L. GILMAN,**

ST. ALBANS, VERMONT.

N. T. FOLSOM.

November, 11, 1867. 191-47

STRAYED.—Came into the inclosure about the last of March, one coarse wool sheep, one or two years old. The owner is requested to pay charges and take it away. J. B. WEBSTER, Fairfield, April 11th, 1868. 216-3w

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Respectfully solicit a share of the patronage of this community, feeling sure that they can give satisfaction in goods and prices. Our stock consists of

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